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QUEST

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FORGE RAISES AWARENESS ON LGBT VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION WITH MILWAUKEE RALLY

Milwaukee - More than 11 suicides nationally of teens bullied by schoolmates, teachers, and even public officials; possibly hundreds gone unreported and mourning the violent deaths of four Milwaukee lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender (LGBT) individuals since May 2010, motivated LGBT people and allies to rally October 23 in an effort to protest, educate, and organize. The "Peaceful Rally for Justice, Rights, and Respect" took place at 2:00 p.m. in MacArthur Square, Milwaukee. Organized by FORGE in conjunction with an ad hoc body of community members galvanized into action by the May 7, 2010 murder of transgender woman Chanel (Dana) Larkin, the Rally has been endorsed by nearly a dozen organizations, including: Parents, Family, Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Milwaukee; Fair Wisconsin; Equality Wisconsin; PrideFest; Diverse and Resilient; SAGE Milwaukee; Metropolitan Community Church Milwaukee;

the Healing Center; Cream City Foundation; and Wisconsin Gazette.

"At this moment in time, with the mounting suicides of teens bullied to death because they're perceived as being LGBT and with the Milwaukee LGBT community reeling from the violent deaths of four community members since May, we can no longer afford to sit back and hope that 'someone' will take care of things," said FORGE Executive Director Michael Munson. "We're taking to the streets to demand that those who spread or even countenance anti-LGBT attitudes and discriminatory laws and policies take responsibility for the violence and deaths that flow directly from those attitudes."

"That responsibility-taking extends to the LGBT community, as well," Munson continued. "We have at least as high a rate of domestic violence as do heterosexuals, and we abuse substances, experience depression and anxiety,

drop out of school and run away from home at rates far higher than peers who are not LGBT. These problems are largely caused by the discrimination and trauma we've survived at others' hands, but it's up to us to take on the healing process and stop the cycle of violence and self-destruction." To that end, Rally speakers and materials will help educate participants and observers about the linkages between anti-LGBT attitudes and violence, and about what steps individuals can take to address the self-harming behaviors that result.

Forge also sent out media kits in an effort to expand awareness statewide. Quest has reprinted below the Forge piece "101 things you can do." Also check out the center of this book for a pullout guide with more information or you can contact FORGE at 414-559-2123 or email info@forge-forward.org.

101 things you can do.

We are all responsible...

for ending violence, bullying, and discrimination of all kinds. You can start today with these concrete suggestions.

DVDs and magazines #29 Reach out to others to join a community group you belong to #30 Learn conflict resolution skills #31 Pick up an LGBT newspaper (and read it!) #32 Write a letter to the editor #33 Volunteer #34 Broaden the inclusion policy of an organization you are part of #35 Attend your workplace's diversity group #36 Donate money to an organization providing direct services for LGBT and/or transgender people #37 Chose love over violence #38 Go to a film on LGBT issues #39 Preach or speak at a local synagogue, church or mosque #40 March with PFLAG or another contingent of your LGBT pride parade #41 Vote #42 Believe in your own superpowers - compassion, love, kindness, resilience - and share them with others #43 Say "tell me more" (and then listen) #44 Become a big brother or mentor #45 Blog #46 Pursue restorative justice #47 Know what support services are available in your area - be able to share them with those who might need them #48 Take care of yourself #49 Have coffee with an LGBT friend, co-worker, student, young person #50 Dance together #51 Keep firearms and weapons locked up (or don't have them in your home/office at all) #52 Open your home (for a meal or housing or safe refuge) #53 Befriend a young LGBT person #54 Hug more #55 Get to know an LGBT elder #56 Be vocal about your pro-LGBT opinions/beliefs #57 Send supportive letters to LGBT youth groups - even if you don't know anyone #58 Take it seriously when someone talks about being depressed or suicidal #59 Proactively advocate for LGBT youth who are being bullied at school #60 Offer hope #61 Write your Congressperson to support the Safe Schools Improvement Act #62 Organize vigils and rallies #63 Share your experiences with discrimination to let others know they are not alone #64 Donate to organizations that make a difference #65 Don't give up (on yourself, LGBT individuals, our community) #66 Start a Gay Straight Alliance (or be an adult advocate/sponsor) #67 Stick your nose into other peoples' business (if you see abuse or bullying, take action) #68 Get political #69 Avoid epithets that stigmatize people living with depression or suicidal thoughts #70 Take 10 minutes every day to just listen (to yourself, to nature, to others, to silence) #71 Make love, not hate #72 Help others find what they are passionate about #73 Share your experiences about thriving after experiencing discrimination #74 Get involved - however you can #75 Advocate #76 Contribute a video to the It Gets Better Project (or to Make It Better) #77 Tell someone you appreciate them #78 Tell your Senator to pass ENDA (Employment Nondiscrimination Act) #79 Reach out #80 Reinforce an expanded definition of who makes up a family #81 Validate feelings and experiences #82 Tell people in your life that you love them #83 Welcome your family members, friends and lovers into your home and into your life #84 Develop a plan with a person to help them get to a safer place #85 Remind others that feelings change #86 Share your compassion #87 Talk about issues directly, even when it's tough #88 Stop the victim/perpetrator cycle #89 Accept other peoples' feelings as they are #90 Consider your beliefs about guns and gun laws (take action if necessary) #91 Report violence when you see it #92 Express your concern #93 Remind others that people can change #94 Take a stand #95 Send postcards #96 Create a village #97 Take photos of happy times together - bring them out to remember that life can be good #98 Show up #99 Create art or music together #100 Push for equality for ALL people #101 Believe

What can you do?



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414.559.2123

REPORT ON DOMESTIC/INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER & QUEER (LGBTQ) COMMUNITIES IN U.S. TO BE RELEASED ON OCTOBER 26, 2010

LGBTQ domestic/intimate partner violence reports rise by 15% since 2008; Murder rate up 50% since 2007; Economic crisis and anti-LGBTQ bias present barriers for survivors

New York - NCAVP representatives from across the country including LA Gay & Lesbian Center: Terra Slavin, Lead Staff Attorney, Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy Project (Los Angeles, CA) Center on Halsted Anti-Violence Project: Lisa Gilmore, Director of Education & Victim Advocacy (Chicago, IL) Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley: Kelly Clark, Community Safety Director (Rochester, NY) released the "2009 LGBTQ Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence Report Release and LGBTQ Survivor Stories from the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP)" Tuesday October 26, 2010 (Report, survivor stories and pre-recorded audio release became live after 12 pm at www.avp.org/ncavp.htm)

The need for LGBTQ anti-violence programs (AVPs) has never been greater. In 2009, NCAVP documented 6 murders of LGBTQ domestic/intimate partner violence incidents, and so far has already recorded 6 murders in 2010. The economic

crisis is jeopardizing critical services while reported cases in domestic/intimate partner violence in LGBTQ communities are on the rise. In 2009, NCAVP documented an increase in reports of calls to police accompanied by an increase in reports of police misconduct and misarrest. In this report, NCAVP calls for local, state and federal governments to take immediate action to leverage funding and eliminate discrimination and structural barriers for LGBTQ domestic/intimate partner violence survivors to gain necessary services and support.

LGBTQ survivors not only face violence from abusive partners but also struggle to access safety and support amidst the broader climate of anti-LGBTQ discrimination and hate. This year, NCAVP releases real-life stories from LGBTQ survivors of domestic/intimate partner violence to call immediate and necessary attention to the dire need for well-resourced, culturally competent supportive services.

NEW REPORT REVEALS RAMPANT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST TRANSGENDER PEOPLE BY HEALTH PROVIDERS, HIGH HIV RATES AND WIDESPREAD LACK OF ACCESS TO NECESSARY CARE

Washington D.C. — Transgender and gender non-conforming people face rampant discrimination in health care settings, are regularly denied needed care, and experience a range of health risks because they are transgender or gender non-conforming, according to a report of more than 6,450 transgender and gender non-conforming people. The National Transgender Discrimination Survey: Report on Health and Health Care was released nationally today by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Center for Transgender Equality.

Key findings include:

- Nearly 1 in 5 (19 percent) reported being refused care outright because they were transgender or gender non-conforming.
- Survey participants reported very high levels of postponing medical care when sick or injured due to discrimination and disrespect (28 percent).
- Harassment: 28 percent of respondents were subjected to harassment in medical settings.
- Significant lack of provider knowledge: 50 percent of the sample reported having to teach their medical providers about transgender care.
- Despite barriers, the majority has accessed some form of transition-related medical care, but only a minority has had any surgery, despite the fact that a strong majority stated wanting to have it someday.
- Respondents reported more than four times the national average of HIV infection, 2.64 percent in our sample compared to 0.6 percent in the general population, with rates for transgender women at 3.76 percent, and with those who are unemployed (4.67 percent) or who have engaged in sex work (15.32 percent) even higher.
- Over a quarter of the respondents reported misusing drugs or alcohol specifically to cope with the discrimination they faced due to their gender identity or expression.
- A staggering 41 percent of respondents reported attempting suicide compared to 1.6 percent of the general population.

The report also includes critical public policy recommendations, such as the urgent need to train medical professionals about how to effectively and respectfully treat transgender and gender non-conforming patients; an end to the discriminatory practice of transgender exclusion from health care coverage; the development transgender-specific programs to address suicide; the spread of HIV, and other health risks; and increased research that focuses specifically on health needs of the transgender population.

"It is outrageous that basic health care is being denied to transgender and gender non-conforming people and that so much additional trauma is being caused by doctors instead of being resolved by doctors. The medical profession

must take these data seriously and ensure that everyone in the medical care system knows how to provide transgender-sensitive medical care," says Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

"Health care is a fundamental human right. This study clearly documents that it is regularly being denied to transgender and gender non-conforming people," says Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality. "The study also provides information about the serious health impact of the discrimination that transgender people face. The health risks are many times higher for people of color, for those who have lost a job due to bias, and those who were bullied in school."

The National Transgender Discrimination Survey, a joint partnership of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and National Center for Transgender Equality, is the most extensive survey of transgender discrimination ever undertaken. The survey included 6,450 respondents from all 50 states and several territories, with a geographic and racial distribution approximating that of the general U.S. population.

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MILWAUKEE LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER RECEIVES JOHNSON FAMILY FOUNDATION AWARD

Milwaukee - The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center has received an award from the Johnson Family Foundation to address the mental health needs of LGBT people in the greater Milwaukee area. Formed in 1998, the Center has established itself as a leader in community building, health promotion, advocacy, and communications for LGBT people in Milwaukee. In addition to an array of direct service programs, the Center provides a home and meeting space for numerous LGBT groups in Milwaukee (e.g. FORGE, PFlag, PrideFest, etc.) Expanding our capacity to provide culturally competent mental health services to LGBT individuals and allies will not only address an urgent need, it will advance our mission to improve the quality of life for LGBT people in Milwaukee County.

The Center's Executive Director, Maggi Cage, holds a PhD in Counseling Psychology and is a licensed professional counselor and licensed clinical social worker, with more than 17 years experience providing or administering mental health services. Dr. Cage oversees all mental health services provided by the Center.

The immediate gap in services that resulted from the mission-shift of the Counseling Center has mobilized the MLGBTCC Board of Directors to assume a leadership role in addressing the mental health needs of low-income, uninsured and underinsured LGBT people and their allies. The Community Center understands that we cannot expand to address the immediate need without support from a strong mental health partner. In response, discussions with Jewish Family Services have already produced an informal agreement to address the gap in services. Mental health referrals to JFS have commenced and planning is underway to provide onsite mental health services at the new location of the Community Center. The Center is moving in late October 2010 to a new building (located 3 blocks from JFS) that will provide increased space and private access to counseling offices and group rooms. The Center will also leverage existing linkages with 15+ local LGBT organizations to promote the expansion of mental health services.

The Community Center is partnering with Jewish Family Services to develop and implement a three-year plan to establish and administer a fully-functioning, independent, licensed outpatient mental health clinic for LGBT people and allies in greater Milwaukee. This will include development of clinical services policies and procedures, supervision and record management systems, quality assurance and billing mechanisms needed to maintain state licensure as an outpatient mental health clinic and secure both public (T19) and insurance reimbursement. Together, we will implement a plan to recruit, hire and train professional counselors, therapists, psychologists and psychiatrists to provide culturally competent mental health services to LGBT people. Work will include updating clinical forms so they are culturally sensitive to the LGBT population.

At the end of the three year grant period, we envision that low-income, uninsured and underinsured LGBT people in Milwaukee will have access to an array of professional mental health services that include individual and group treatment, family counseling, specialized support groups, and psychiatric evaluation. Services will be provided by a staff of licensed professionals and volunteers who have received advanced training on how to provide culturally competent treatment to LGBT people. The program will be highly visible and widely recognized within the LGBT community as a safe and trusted community resource. Strong linkages with mainstream mental health providers (e.g. Pathfinders, the Healing Center, Aurora Family Service, and United Community Center) will ensure a steady flow of referrals to the program. Increased availability of services will have a positive impact on reducing mental health disparities for LGBT people in Milwaukee.

7TH ANNUAL ROW DINNER SET TO GO GLITZY NOVEMBER 20

Kimberly - Rainbow Over Wisconsin (ROW) is celebrating its "lucky" seventh annual "An Evening With Rainbow Over Wisconsin" fund raising dinner, auction and show by offering up a Las Vegas-themed evening complete with the glitz and glamour of the Strip including a wheel of fortune and a bevy of visiting showgirls. The November 20 event will be held at the Liberty Hall Banquet and Convention Center here, with cocktails and silent auction starting at 6 PM.

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Tickets available at Rascals in Appleton, Napalese Lounge in Green Bay, PJS in Oshkosh and The Blue Lite in Sheboygan.

Tickets can also be purchased at www.rainbowoverwisconsin.org or by calling (920) 437-0094.

RAINBOWOVERWISCONSIN.ORG 

This year's post-dinner entertainment will feature a Vegas-themed show by the Sisters of Charity, the Indiana-based troupe of showgirls who first wowed Wisconsin club goers last winter with their "Lost Valentine" revue. That standing-room only, photos from which were featured in the February 25 issue of Quest, saw the drag dolls hilariously demolish Beyoncé's "Single Ladies" video and featured performances that mimicked gay icons from Patsy Cline to Eva Gabor.

The menu items for this year's dinner will include Breast of Chicken Sicilian, Medallions of Roasted Beef Tenderloin, Baby Red Potatoes, Fettuccine with Olive Oil & Garlic Sauce, Roasted Fresh Vegetables, Caesar Salad, Spinach Salad, Tropical Fresh Fruit, Croissants, New York Cheesecake and Chocolate Brownie plus beverages. The meal will served family style, allowing those wishing to enjoy only vegetarian items the opportunity to do so.

According to President Dean Dayton, the annual ROW dinner is the foundation's signature fund raising event. "It's an opportunity for old friends to make new friends at a fun event that also advances the northeast Wisconsin community's 'gay agenda' by donating to Rainbow's Community Enrichment Fund," he said.

Tickets for the "An Evening With Rainbow Over Wisconsin" are available from individual ROW members or at Rascals Bar & Grill in Appleton, Napalese Lounge in Green Bay, PJs in Oshkosh and The Blue Lite in Sheboygan. Tickets can be purchase online at: www.rainbowoverwisconsin.org. Tickets also can be ordered by calling 920-437-0994. Tickets are \$35 until November 15 for \$35 each. Tickets purchased after that date or at the door will be \$40.

Founded following northeast Wisconsin's "Alive With Pride" celebration in 1995, Rainbow Over Wisconsin is a not-for-profit foundation serving LGBT communities in central, northeast and eastern Wisconsin. In 2009-2010 ROW Community Enrichment Fund grants that helped underwrite programs that served gay youth, domestic partner registration education and HIV prevention among others. The northeast Pride Alive event and the Rainbow Connection educational outreach brochure racks are also programs of ROW.

PAULA POUNDSTONE KEEPS THE LAUGHS COMING ON NPR'S WEEKLY NEWS QUIZ SHOW, "WAIT WAIT DON'T TELL ME" AND BRINGS HER COMEDIC BRILLIANCE TO THE STADIUM VIEW BAR & GRILL ON FRIDAY, NOV. 12TH!

Green Bay - The Stadium View Bar & Grill in Green Bay, WI is proud to present comedian Paula Poundstone in concert Friday, November 12th. It's impossible to attend a Paula Poundstone performance without marveling at her ability to interact spontaneously with audience members in conversations bound to garner riotous laughter. Armed with nothing but a stool, a microphone and a can of Diet Pepsi, Paula's ability to create humor on the spot has become the stuff of legend. Little wonder people leave Paula's shows debating whether the random people she talked to were "plants" - which, of course they never are, and complaining that their cheeks hurt from laughter.

Paula continues to be the National Spokesperson for (ALTAFF), The Association of Library Trustees Advocates Friends & Foundations, a national network of enthusiastic library supporters. ALTAFF believes in the importance of libraries as the social and intellectual centers of communities and campuses. Paula is supporting libraries on a local level by partnering with promoters and the local Friends organization in cities where she performs. In most markets the local Friends group receives tick-



ets for use in fundraising or promotion as well as a portion of the book and CD sales after her perform-

ance where she makes herself available for signings. Says Poundstone: "It's funny that we think of libraries as quiet demure places where we are shushed by dusty, bun-balancing, bespectacled women. The truth is libraries are raucous clubhouses for free speech, controversy and community. Librarians have stood up to the Patriot Act, sat down with noisy toddlers and reached out to illiterate adults. Libraries can never be shushed. If you haven't been to your library lately, you're over-due." Paula is pleased to partner with the ALTAFF supporters of the Friends of the Brown County Library who will sell Paula's book for which they will receive 100% of the proceeds, and participate in other fund-raising activities. Paula will make herself available for a book signing after the show. The Friends of the Brown County Library address is 515 Pine Street Green Bay, WI 54301. For more information call 920-448-5806.

Showtime: 8:00PM Tickets: \$35 & \$45 visit www.ticketstaronline.com or call: 920-498-1989

The Stadium View Bar & Grill is located at 1963 Holmgren Way Green Bay, WI 54304 (Stadium View is not an LGBT Bar)



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AMERICAN APPAREL GIVES UW-WHITEWATER STUDENTS T-SHIRTS IN WAKE OF HATE CRIME



WHITEWATER — The apparel company that produces the popular "Legalize Gay" T-shirts reached out to UW-Whitewater students after an off-campus hate crime September 26, involving a freshman student wearing a "Legalize Gay" shirt who was punched in the face and called "faggot" by two men. Officers have not made an arrest in the case, apparently continuing to investigate as reported in Janesville's Gazette.

American Apparel has shipped 500 of the same shirts asking the student organization IMPACT to give them away to any students who want them. The company also placed an ad in the UW-Whitewater student paper, condemning the attack.

In the advertisement The company noted company employees have faced similar harassment over the shirts last year in the nations capitol.

"We were deeply moved and inspired to hear how quickly a student rally was organized and how strong the response to this hate crime was," reads the ad. "American Apparel is a company that believes in freedom of expression and equal rights."

Student groups have held an anti-bullying rally bringing together hundreds of people who shared similar stories and urged others to join the fight against hate crimes. UW-Madison and other Wisconsin campuses have also taken action including launching an anti-bullying campaign to support lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students.

UWM LGBT ALUMNI GROUP FORMS

Milwaukee - With a mission of providing professional and business opportunities to LGBT grads, bringing the resources of the university to the community, and an LGBT voice to the campus, a group of LGBT alumni have formed an official chapter of the UWM Alumni Association. Membership is free. LGBT grads can sign up at <http://www4.uwm.edu/alumni/>

The chapter, open to all LGBT graduates, held its first official event on Saturday, October 23rd following the UWM LGBT Film/Video Festival screenings on the same evening. The reception with food, entertainment and drink specials at Art Bar, 722 E. Burleigh, was held after both the 7 pm and 9 pm screenings, and was open to the general public.

The chapter is chartered by the UWM Alumni Association, which has provided financial support. "There are over 70,000 UWM alumni living in the greater Milwaukee area, said John Bartel staff member of the UWM Alumni Association. "Thousands of these grads are members of LGBT communities. We want to make them aware of the services the university provides to its graduates."

Among those services are help with job searches, discounts on travel packages, and other services. "The resources the University provides to its students doesn't end when they graduate," said Bartel. "A good way to take advantage of those resources is to join the Alumni Association and one of its chapters."

Dozens of UWM LGBT grads have indicated an interest in the new group. Nearly 50 of them have joined its facebook page: UW-Milwaukee LGBT Alumni. "The chapter will be a conduit between UWM and its LGBT graduates," said Scherer. "Helping alumni to connect with each other and with the opportunities provided by UWM to its alum is a priority for the Chapter."

In addition to working with the Film/Video Festival, chapter members are exploring other ideas including mixers and displays of UWM's extensive LGBT History archives.

The Chapter is looking to add additional members to its Board and ideas to its agenda. FMI call the Alumni Association at 906-4665 or go to www4.uwm.edu/alumni/chapters/lgbt_alumni.cfm.

SHORT VIDEO CHRONICLES VISIT OF OPENLY GAY OSCAR WINNER LANCE BLACK BACK TO HIS HIGH SCHOOL

To prevent anti-gay bullying and violence, The Homecoming Project brings gay adults back to their high schools to share stories, lessons, & hope



New York - In the midst of a national wave of anti-gay bullying and violence, a powerful short video premieres revealing how one person can change a school – and the lives of hundreds of gay and straight youth – in just one day.

Academy Award-winning screenwriter Lance Black ("Milk") is one of the many gay leaders participating in The Homecoming Project, Live Out Loud's grassroots initiative that brings successful gay adults back to their high schools to share their stories, lessons, and hope with today's students. Black's extraordinary visit to North Salinas High School in California's conservative Central Valley is captured in a new short video premiering online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=JoOWY8_hWYQ & www.liveoutloud.info/wp/programs/lance-blacks-homecoming-project/.

Speaking in a gym packed with more than 1000 students, Black speaks openly of his conservative upbringing, the despair of being closeted, and his hope for happiness beyond high school.

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His moving speech prompts cheering ovations, tears throughout the audience, and one student revealing that he had just come out to his parents. "We can't hate people that don't love us. We have to love them back until they love us back," the student tells the assembly.

Even more important, Black's visit results in the school starting its first Gay-Straight Alliance.

"This day changed North High," said Cheryl Darling, Principal's Secretary. "When I first heard about this Homecoming Project, I had no idea it would be so revelatory," said Black. "I had no idea I would see such great change."

Since its inception, The Homecoming Project has brought a diverse mix of gay adults, including former GLAAD president Neil Giuliano, author Eric Marcus, and media strategist Cathy Renna, back to their high schools.

Live Out Loud's executive director Leo Preziosi, Jr. said The Homecoming Project provides gay adults and schools with a powerful tool to create positive change in the lives of both gay and straight youth.

"These recent tragedies are a wake-up call for the LGBT community that we each must make the time to play an active role in the lives of today's youth," said Preziosi. "We must share our stories, offer support and encouragement and remind them of their extraordinary potential."

For more information, visit www.liveoutloud.info.

GLAAD & FACEBOOK WORK TOGETHER TO REMOVE ANTI-GAY COMMENTS

New York - The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the nation's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) media advocacy and anti-defamation organization, announced Facebook has put new measures in place to respond more quickly to hateful comments posted to a memorial page dedicated to those lost to anti-gay bullying. FMI please visit glaadblog.org.

On October 6, GLAAD was alerted to a string of hateful comments posted to a Facebook event page which memorializes young people who have lost their lives to anti-gay bullying. The page also asks that its supporters wear purple on October 20 in honor of those "who committed suicide in recent weeks/months due to homophobic abuse." That page now has over half a million supporters. Over 1,800 emails were sent to GLAAD calling for Facebook to monitor the content or remove the page altogether. Because the event page is currently functioning as a community memorial with an outpouring of support for the families of those teens as well as youth who might be facing similar anti-gay bullying, GLAAD's digital team continued to work with Facebook and call for a solution.


"This violent, hateful speech has no place in our media—whether it in print, on the airwaves or online," said GLAAD President Jarrett Barrios. "Facebook has taken an important first step in making

social media a place where anti-gay violence is not allowed. Our community needs to continue to be vigilant and report instances of hateful comments and images across the site to Facebook moderators as well as post messages of support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth."


GLAAD called on members to continue to monitor and use Facebook reporting methods for this and other pages as well as to post messages of support to the event page.

"Educating people about the lasting and damaging impacts of ignorant and hateful comments is a responsibility shared by parents, educators, organizations like GLAAD, and services like Facebook," said Facebook spokesperson Andrew Noyes. "We take our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities very seriously and react quickly to reports of inappropriate content and behavior. The goal of these policies is to strike a very delicate balance between giving people the freedom to express their opinions and viewpoints—even those that may be controversial to some—and maintaining a safe and trusted environment. We have policies that prohibit hateful content and we have built a robust reporting infrastructure and an expansive team to review reports and remove content quickly. In addition to responding to reports, we have automated systems that use a number of factors to flag content that might violate our policies, so we can review and take it down as quickly as possible and before it's reported."


Join us for:
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Friday, November
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The Khris Francis experience is a combination of stand-up, poking fun at the world and himself as well as a Don Rickles style of audience ribbing.



The Shelter Club - 730 N. Quincy St., Green Bay
 For tickets or table information call 920-432-2662
www.TheShelterClub.com for special offers.

ON SECOND THOUGHT – Opinion by Paul Masterson

Back in August, G W Bush's former campaign manager, Republican functionary Ken Mehlman came out. He even came out for gay marriage rights. More recently, the Log Cabin Republicans filed suit against Don't Ask – Don't Tell. I argued that the Republicans, for all their family values and anti-gay rhetoric may have given up the culture war against the LGBT community. It seemed like they had seen the writing on the wall – LGBT rights were inevitable and there were other, perhaps better, scapegoats on which to focus the wrath of the rabble, namely Muslims and immigrants. After all, they were readily recognizable. And anyway, with the ever-growing spate of ousted ministers and politicians, it was making the GOP look like the Gay Old Party.

Then I noticed a couple of vandalized posters in the foyer of the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. Someone had taken a lighter and burned out the word "gay" on the MGAC logo. The center shares a floor of a building with an otherwise friendly straight bar. It was easy to imagine someone deciding it would be

fun to be a jerk and make a homophobic statement. It was a bit disconcerting, of course, since beyond some minor damage to the posters, a larger fire could have ensued. Still, it appeared to be more a random act of alcohol-induced ignorance than

The police and media were called in. Although circumstantial, it was apparent to all that it was a deliberate, targeted attack, not just a coincidence. There are lots of big windows in the neighborhood and lots of LGBT businesses within a block or two.

But MGAC is the only one with "GAY" in its name.

Madison, too, has experienced its own acts of violence against LGBT entities.

Apparently, with the November 2nd election in the offing and right wing politicians and extreme Christian churches inciting their constituents and congregations, it has given the mob a certain sense of empowerment. Their anti-anyone-but-us rhetoric may sound ridiculous to the informed, but it's perfectly logical to the masses that subscribe to bigotry and hatred to feel better about themselves.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mehlman really hasn't been heard from

since his grand proclamation. For mainstream Republicans, he's off message...the LGBT community is still a target.



much else.

A couple of weeks later, someone threw a Boulder into one of MGAC's large plate glass windows.

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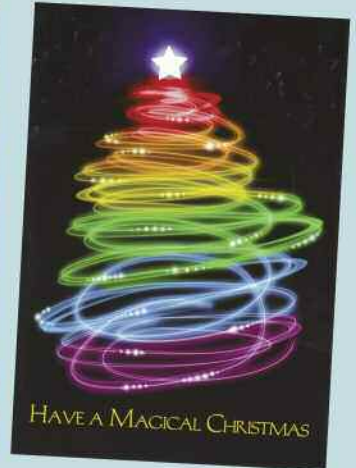
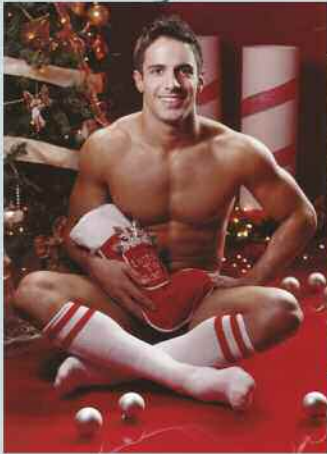
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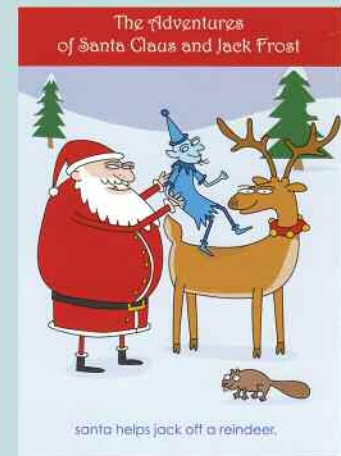
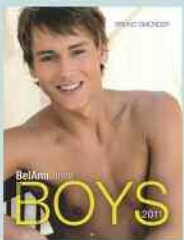
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EDITORIAL: VOTE IN YOUR BEST INTEREST NOVEMBER 2

By the time you probably read this I suspect you are ready for Election Day (November 2) to come and thankfully go. It is nearly impossible to listen to your answering service, open your mailbox, turn on the television or even surf the Internet without being bombarded by political attack ads.

Election day also comes after two years of tough times for the American work force. Like other minority communities, LGBT people have been affected disproportionately with job losses. Nationally the unemployment rate hovers at 10%, even as Wisconsin's rate dipped to 7.8% in September.

For the gay community politically, not much of what had promised to us politically has occurred at the national level: ENDA has not been adopted and "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was not repealed, despite recent court activity. The sole bright spot politically - in fact - occurred in Wisconsin with the enactment of the same-sex domestic partner registry in 2009. However, for a community that has been in "marriage or bust" mode for close to a decade and a half, even that bright spot appears to be fairly dim.

The economy and the lack of political progress on our equality issues all have worked to dampen gay enthusiasm for politics at this point in the election cycle. A common theme among many in the LGBT community has been "to hell with both parties." Many claim the Democrats exploit us for our money and votes only to drag their feet on our issues, while Republicans exploit us to gain money and votes from their evangelical Christian base. As the 2006 amendment vote showed us, the Religious Right is really out to get us.

But it is important to remember both the economy and the political sluggishness have been caused by the party who does try to hurt the gay

community when they are in power: the GOP.

I hear from Wisconsin's Log Cabin folks that Scott Walker is gay friendly. They point to the recent piece in the *Shepard Express* that he has gay staffers. But he also is on record with Julaine Apple's Wisconsin Family Action as promising to eliminate the Wisconsin Domestic Partnership Registry if elected. Most of his fellow Republican Assembly and Senate candidates are similarly on record. Sorry, that is not gay-friendly.

As for the Republicans' ruinous economic policy making, look no further than to David Stockman, President Ronald Reagan's director of the Office of Management and Budget, who wrote in an August New York Times op-ed piece about "How my GOP destroyed the U.S. Economy."

Stockman explained how in the past 40 years Republican ideology has gone from solid principles to hype and slogans. "Republicans used to believe that prosperity depended upon the regular balancing of accounts - in government, in international trade, on the ledgers of central banks and in the financial affairs of private households and businesses too," he wrote.

Stockman added that that thanks to Republican policies that let Americans "live beyond our means for decades by borrowing heavily from abroad, we have steadily sent jobs and production offshore," while at home "high-value jobs in goods production ... trade, transportation, information technology and the professions shrunk by 12% to 68 million from 77 million."

Stockman also concluded that the problem will continue because "First, that most Americans, 300 million, are helpless, will do nothing, sit in the bleachers passively watching this deadly partisan game like it's just another TV reality show," and "Sec-

ond, that, unfortunately, politicians are so deep-in-the-pockets of the Wall Street conspiracy that controls Washington they are helpless and blind."

Stockman also should have added that Americans have become so accustomed to mindsets of instant gratification (instant money through ATMs, instant food through drive-ins, on demand TV and entertainment programming, etc.) and "reboot if it's not working right," that they are about to hand the reins of power back to the people who got us here in the first place because Obama's promised "change" was not delivered in 20 months.

The reality is no one can reverse 40 years of bad economic policy in such a short period of time. And it certainly will not be corrected by a party that when it is in power focuses attention on hot button issues like gay marriage and abortion to distract the public that it is doing nothing to address the serious economic and social problems the United States actually faces.

What it all comes down to is that unless you are in the 1% of the population who have benefited financially from Republican policies - straight, gay or otherwise - if you choose to vote for the GOP in the upcoming election, you are voting against your best interests - That would be 99% of you who are reading this editorial.

What you need to do is not tweet about voting on Twitter, not "like" voting on Facebook or write about voting in a blog or email blast: you need to actually put down the smartphone, turn off the netbook and physically get out and vote November 2. And when you do, vote for your own best interests. In what now appear to be ever-tightening races that would mean choosing the Democrat side of the ballot. Energized gay votes may mean the difference, so get out and vote!

REVIEW: Rio de Sangre at the Florentine

By Paul Masterson

The Milwaukee's Florentine Opera successfully staged its first world premiere to open the company's 2010-11 season's first production. Don Davis' *Rio de Sangre*, a saga of South American political malaise, offered the audience an unfamiliar taste of contemporary opera. Like any unfamiliar flavor, it took some getting used to.

Hearing or performing any new music can be a demanding challenge. For most local opera goers, there's little basis for expectation or comparison. The audience is left to its own powers of appreciation. But one must appreciate the musicians whose sovereignty can convey contemporary music with such command and conviction. Even if the listener was taxed by the opera's complexities and heaviness, the collective musical mastery of cast, chorus and orchestra had to have made an impression.

Rio's plot, with a libretto by Kate Gale, presents a South American nation's typical, repeated cycle of internal political and natural disasters. Presidente Delacruz (Guido Lebron) is elected to power promising the dream of liberty and a better life for all. An earthquake, a cholera epidemic, a mistress, corrupt politicians, riots, revolutionaries, and fickle population all contribute to the rapid reversals of fortune that propel the obligatory plotting general Guajardo (John Duykers) to stage a coup. In his turn, he echoes the promises of liberty and a better life for all. The familiar here-we-go-again message is clear. It's not only a South American dilemma. If nothing else, the plot should have struck some sensitive cords as we face our own possible impending shift of power and earthquake.

Musically, *Rio de Sangre* blends dissonant modernity with more familiar lyricism and atonality with

nightclub salsa. Its heavily orchestrated score shifts from bombastic to muted and back again like churning waves slamming again rocks and dissipating back into the sea. Its relentlessness is certainly successful in conveying that sense of life in perpetual mayhem. The only relief is the seedy retreat of the nightclub with its devil-may-care meringue but even that escape is tenuous.

In addition to Lebron and Duykers, the cast's leads included Kerry Walsh as Antonia, the wife; Ava Pine as Blanca, the daughter; Vale Rideout sung the role of Igneo, a political supporter and Blanca's fiancé; and Mabel Ledo performed Estella, the mistress. Ava Pine stood out. Her dream aria lament in act III was stunningly beautiful. It was the musical highpoint. Walsh also gave an impressive performance with stinging high notes marking her emotional intensity as her children are killed off and life as First Lady becomes her ultimate undoing. Baritone Lebron carries his role with clarity and

convincing dramatic power from his opening optimism to dire despair as his reality unravels with each turn for the worst.

The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra under Joseph Rescigno gave a strong performance. Its integration of sound managed the score, for all its extremes, with absolute control. Scott Stewart's imparted his chorus with a keen sense of drama. Their part in the completing the whole was musically no less daunting than that of the soloists and the MSO.

Noele Stollmack's scenery and lighting design created a contrast of pastel-toned Spanish colonial facades against a projected backdrop of densely and precariously built hillside slums. This juxtaposition reinforced the opera's incessant thematic statement of power and intrigue against a disconnected rich and poor social structure.. A massive central scaffolding rotated to provide various scene settings including a palace balcony, the nightclub and hiding place of the kidnapped daughter.

The Florentine audience should have left the Marcus Center, if not with a love of *Rio de Sangre*, at least with a sense of pride in the accomplishment of a wonderful world premiere.

PERFECT HARMONY'S 14TH SEASON "WINTER GLOW"

Madison - Perfect Harmony will present "Winter Glow", this year's winter season concert! Now in their 14th Season, Perfect Harmony continues to build on past performance achievements and find new ways to reach audiences both established and new. PHMC has been recognized this year by Outreach as the performing group of the year!.

"Winter Glow" is a heart warming collection of traditional as well as contemporary music including pieces reflecting the spirit of Hanukkah, the warmth of Advent and the revelry of secular carols of the season. Of special note this year is a performance of an Edgar Allen Poe poem set to music by Steven Horvath, entitled "Demon in my view".

Perfect Harmony's 14th season is the momentum builder for the 15th Anniversary Season. Artistic Director Ken Forney is working on finding a permanent performance home for the chorus as well as commissioning a work exclusively for Perfect Harmony.

The LGBTQ community, especially youth, have been in the news for very tragic reasons lately. Perfect Harmony exists to create a safe space not only for it's members, but the larger community as well. We believe that when art and social justice are combined the result is powerful and difficult to ignore.

Performances are 7:30 pm Friday, December 10th at Middleton UCC, 645 Schewe Road, Middleton and 3:00 pm Sunday, December 12th at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, 5700 Pheasant Hill Road, Monona.

GANG MEMBERS CHARGED IN TORTURING GAY MAN

New York - Eight members of the "Latin King Goonies" gang were arraigned in New York City after one of the city's most savage hate crimes. The gang members face a wide array of charges including gang assault, rape, robbery and hate crimes. What did they do? Prosecutors say the group tortured a gay man, his brother and two teens in early October.

The gang leader is charged with repeatedly asking the bound victims if they were "fags" before punching the helpless men in the face. The crime spree began after gang members learned that one of their recruits, a 17 year old, was seen with a gay man, according to police.

The 17 year old was later sodomized, beaten and slashed with

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This is an open forum and discussion about what it takes to pre-qualify for a home loan and the steps needed to make buying a home a reality.

Sue Mershon, a local mortgage loan consultant with years of experience will be here to answer your questions and share some insights into what can be expected when applying for a loan and about the many loan options available.

Scott Dollinger, a 6 year Real Estate consultant will also sit in and discuss the home buying process from start to finish and what buyers and sellers can expect in today's real estate market.

Sue and Scott are both proud to represent "our family" and this open forum is a casual way to get the questions you have...answered.
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a box cutter. As the evening went on, the group kidnapped his brother, another teen and the gay man the boy had been seen with. The gay man, who has not been identified by police, was severely beaten and suffered burns to his genitals.

One victim was apparently forced to choose between being beaten with a pipe or baseball bat.

New York Mayor Bloomberg called the savage attack "pure evil."

"How can one human be so inhuman to another, simply on the basis of who they are? What kind of twisted logic really spurs them - a large group of men - to show their toughness by ganging up on helpless individuals? That's not showing your toughness, that's just telling you you're weak and despicable," said the mayor.

What do the gang members have to say? According to a published report, a cellmate in the same holding cell as the eight old the NY Daily News that the group was laughing

and joking about the incidents. While the boys were laughing, the parents of the defendants claim their sons are innocent.

Time will tell. Thus far, only two have been granted bail. The other six are being held with no bail set. A ninth gang member has not yet been arraigned. The gang members range in age from 16 to 23. At least one defense attorney claims that his client joined in the attack because of peer pressure. Is this an isolated incident? Unfortunately not, just two days before this attack, another gay man was attacked. New York City police officials say that hate crimes based on sexual orientation - so called gay bashing - are up 7% this year.

About the author: Brian Mahany is a lawyer with offices in Portland, Maine and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He concentrates in anti discrimination law and helping victims of sexual assaults obtain justice and compensation. He welcomes comments; email him at brian@mahanyertl.com.

PHOTOGRAPHER JOHN GRESS: RECEPTION AND BOOK & CALENDAR SIGNING, NOV. 13

Milwaukee - Outwords Books welcomes back acclaimed photographer **John Gress** for a reception and a signing of his stunning debut photography book, **"The Score,"** on Saturday, November 13th at 4:00pm. Also available is his equally stunning over-sized 2011 Calendar based on photographs from the book.

In **"The Score,"** photographer John Gress's models appear both well trained and incredibly fit. His pictures offer the opportunity to study their immaculate bodies even more intensively than normally possible. Every muscle, every salty drop of sweat appears to be almost tangible. Most impressive is the way these pictures illustrate the effort, the strength of will and the energy that are necessary to build up a body to such perfection. Whether shooting in black-and-white or in vivid color, Gress is a true master of his genre.

John Gress discovered the art of photography at the age of 14 when he took his mother's point-and-



shoot camera to summer camp. He enrolled in his first photography class during his freshman year in high school, and by his senior year was covering major events for the Associated Press. He is also a successful commercial photographer and frequently shoots for newspapers such as **Le Monde** and **The New York Times** as well as for brands like Chrysler, Microsoft and Nike.

"We have been delighted to be able to offer our customers the extensive line of greeting cards featuring the photography of photographer, John Gress. These stunningly produced birthday and gallery cards celebrate the authentic masculinity of an ethnically diverse group of models who open up to the camera's lens with both self-assurance and abandon," states bookstore owner Carl Szatmary. New in 2010 from John Gress are boxed Holiday Cards, also available at Outwords Books.

This is a free event and the chance to meet pho-



tographer John Gress plus a collection of his handsome models. For further information, please check out www.outwordsbooks.com, our page on Facebook or call (414) 963-9089.

MYSTERY WRITER THERESE SZYMANSKI; OUTWORDS BOOKS, NOVEMBER 6

Outwords Books also announced an appearance with Lambda-nominated mystery writer Therese 'Reese' Szymanski on Saturday, November 6 at 2:00pm. Therese Szymanski will read from and sign copies of **"When It's All Relative,"** the eighth title in her popular Brett Higgins series which began with **"When the Dancing Stops."**

Szymanski will also read from **"When Shadows Turn to Night,"** the finale in the Brett Higgins series plus **"It's All Smoke & Mirrors."**

Therese Szymanski is an award-winning playwright who has been short-listed for a few Lammies, a few Goldies and a Spectrum, and made the Publishing Triangle's list of Notable Lesbian Books in 2004 and was chosen for an Alice B. Reader's Appreciation Award for 2008.

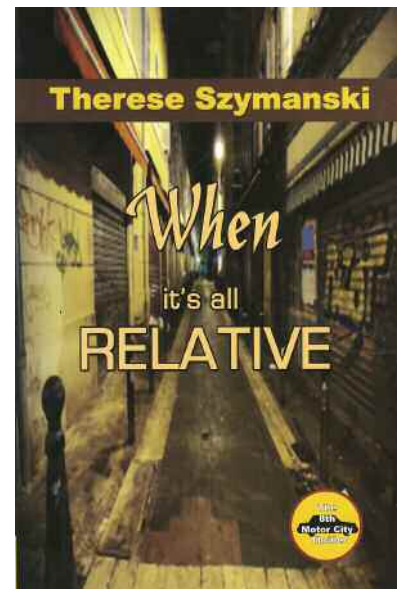
She's written eight Brett Higgins Motor City Thrillers (beginning with **"When the Dancing**

Stops" and with 2008 release **"When It's All Relative"** as the latest entry). Szymanski also has released one Shawn Donnelly book, **"It's All Smoke & Mirrors."** In addition, she has also edited the erotic anthologies **"Back to Basics,"** **"Call of the Dark,"** **"Wild Nights,"** and **"A Perfect Valentine."** She has novellas in **"Once Upon a Dyke,"** **"Stake through the Heart,"** **"Bell, Book and Dyke"** and **"Tall in the Saddle"**

Therese Szymanski will read from **"When It's All Relative"** beginning at 2:00pm on Saturday, November 6, 2010 at Outwords Books.

This is a free event and all are welcome. Please arrive early since seating is limited.

Outwords Books is located at 2710 N. Murray Ave. in Milwaukee. For further information, please call (414) 963-9089. You can also find us @ www.outwordsbooks.com and on Facebook!





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MUSIC – INTERVIEW with Josie Cotton

RING AROUND THE JOSIE

By Drew Lipinsky

Josie Cotton crashed onto the world stage in the early eighties with her controversial new wave hit, 'Johnny, Are You Queer?'. When the underground dance hit was unexpectedly catapulted on to the airwaves, it sparked a meteoric rise in fame for Cotton that quickly went down in flames. Cotton was attacked by the religious right for "Johnny...", then labeled homophobic by the gay community, and finally banned in Amsterdam. The backlash thwarted her promising career and ultimately made Cotton a pariah in the music business.

Still, Josie Cotton forged on in the underground, releasing indy hits including "Convertible Music", "From the Hip", and "Frightened By Nightingales". In 2006, she released "Movie Disaster Music", her most critically acclaimed album to date. It was followed by "Invasion of the B Girls", a campy by reverent homage to B-Movie theme songs from the 1960s and 70s. In his liner notes to the album, film director John Waters wrote "Josie makes the un-listenable unforgettable."

Her latest record, "Pussycat Babylon", co-produced by legendary punk keyboardist Paul Roessler, releases this fall. It's a modern electro-pop inspired album featuring some of the underground's most influential players that has the potential to hit mainstream. But is mainstream ready yet for Josie Cotton?

You revealed in Out Magazine that you were once married. Why did you keep your marriage a secret for so long?

I never thought of it as a real marriage. It was a futile and silly attempt to keep my insane German boyfriend in the country.

As you know, marriage equality is the leading issue facing the gay community right now.

These are such basic human rights we're talking about. Even slaves were allowed to marry. It makes me incredibly sad when I hear the stories I do and then I get angry. This is the United States. We should be able to love who we want to love and not be punished for it by being denied our civil rights. Crazy Christians are one thing but as far as I know our system of government has no right to delegate morality if it doesn't impinge on other's people's rights.

What are your feelings about marriage in general?

It's a very mysterious thing why anyone wants to marry. I see it as a romantic notion pretty much doomed to fail.

Why is that?

Marriages fail because people go into it completely unprepared with a lot of expectations that they didn't even know they had. At least with arranged marriages everyone knew what their job was. I think everyone should go into therapy with the person they plan to spend the rest of their life with before making that kind of commitment.

To discuss how the marriage will work?

To get everything on the table. Are you going to take out the trash or am I? How often? Who's in charge of our social life? Is this a marriage based on a democracy, which almost never is the case, or is it more symbiotic in

which case who has the final say with things?

Did you enjoy being married?

I loved the feeling I had when I was in a committed relationship. For someone who never really had a family it was very comforting to know what was waiting for me at the end of the day in a very scary world. I'm honestly a little afraid of ever getting married because people can change when they think they own someone. That's the danger.

Did you believe you would spend the rest of your life with your husband?

I have felt that way before and even wanted to get married but not to that clown.

What happened to the marriage?

Let's just say that it's the stuff B movies are made of. His English was so broken it was hard to know what he was actually saying at any given moment and humor was not even an option although it's rather funny looking back on it now.

You're best known for Johnny R U Queer – a song about a naïve girl who falls for a gay guy. Do you feel sympathy for foolish girls who are blinded by love?

I feel sympathy for anyone blinded by love! It's really of a form of insanity.

Have you ever been blinded by love?

Oh God yes! Blinded, boiled and flayed by love.

What is it about 'love' that makes us all suckers?

I have no idea. It makes absolutely no sense to me but we seem to be wired for it. I have often said, half jokingly, if I had been fixed I would have gotten a lot more done but I would still probably have fallen madly in love minus the hot sex which would have sucked even more. We are all doomed with love and lost without it.

What are you looking for in a lover?

Someone with an enormous Adam's apple who laughs at all my jokes...just kidding! (Laughing) I've never been asked questions like these and if you had interviewed me even a month ago I would have given you very different answers. I'm someone who had given up on love completely and I was really ok with the idea of ending up alone. The difference now is I need to be the one in the driver's seat. God knows I earned it.

Has anyone ever come close to being your ideal partner? What made him almost the one?

In the past, there was always something that needed

fixing and I was the right girl for the job. Girls tend to do that and it never works out. I, of course, took it to an extreme but I don't do that anymore. Humor is huge with me, sexiness a pre-requisite, intelligence essential and talent a deal closer. These were always my guiding principles, not necessarily in that order. But I would add real gentleness to that list now.

Does that person appear in any of your songs?

No it appears in nothing I've ever recorded. Next record for sure.

You also revealed in Out that you dabbled in same sex love.

I got involved with a very close friend years ago but it pretty much destroyed our friendship so that wasn't a good ending at all.

Are you ok with being labeled 'bisexual'? Do you believe in bi-sexuality?

I would say I'm 85% hetero. The Kinsey scale made a very good case about everyone being bi-sexual to a certain degree. I always felt any guy who says he is bi-sexual is really gay but that females are naturally bi-sexual for the most part. I've just recently read some research that supports that as well.

Pussycat Babylon is your fourth album. How does it compare with your past work?

Actually it's my 6th album, not counting the ones I recorded but never released. Pussycat Babylon is much dancier than anything I've recorded to date. Even the ballads are danceable. I call it DWS...Dancing While Sad.

What are you most excited about in the new album?

What my writing has evolved into. I'm finally cross-pollinating my journal writing with my song writing. Each song is a story I need to tell.

Would you say the album is a reflection of who you are today?

Absolutely. This is the totality of who I am and what I believe and the absurdity I see around me. Making this record feels like a recurring nightmare of standing naked in front of a huge crowd of people doing stand up comedy and you're waiting for a reaction. As we were recording my vocals on the song Super 8, I remember asking my producer "Can I say that?"

Who is the real Josie Cotton?

Oh my. I guess it depends on which Josie Cotton you ask? Emotionally I'm five years old but my mind thinks it's in a noir detective novel. I may have a multiple personality disorder.

What one thing can you not live without?

A sense of belonging. I was such a lonely kid. I never felt like there was a place for me in the world. I've been looking for it my whole life but sometimes you get so used to searching for something you can't see it right in front of your eyes. My work, my friends, my boyfriend, and my dog all make me feel like I'm where I'm supposed to be and always was. I just didn't know it.

Josie Cotton's new album, Pussycat Babylon, is available on I-Tunes now. Visit www.JosieCotton.com.



What You Can Do

About Violence and Harassment Against LGBT Individuals

Stay involved...

FORGE is currently leading Milwaukee community-based efforts to address anti-LGBT violence and suicide. Keep abreast of meetings and projects by signing up for our email newsletter and/or watching our homepage at www.forge-forward.org

If you are a youth...

- If you are a youth who is finding life very difficult, call The Trevor Project, which runs a 24-hour, national crisis and suicide prevention lifeline for LGBTQ teens. 1-866-4-U-Trevor (1-866-488-7386) or www.thetrevorproject.org
- Start a Gay-Straight Alliance at your school.
A very comprehensive list of how-to guides and resources for schools, parents, and teens is available through the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) <http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/antibullying/index.html>
- Know Your Rights! A Quick Guide for LGBT High School Students is available (free!) from the American Civil Liberties Union at http://www.aclu.org/lgbt-rights_hiv-aids/know-your-rights-quick-guide-lgbt-high-school-students
- Participate in the Make It Better campaign, helping LGBTQ youth take action now. <http://www.makeitbetterproject.org/>

If you are an adult concerned about youth...

- Help your own or another family understand what a difference acceptance makes. Read the publications of the Family Acceptance Project, at <http://familyproject.sfsu.edu/>
- Join Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) (also trans-inclusive). Find your nearest local chapter at <http://community.pflag.org/Page.aspx?pid=803>
- Tell your Congressperson and Senators to:
 - Support the Safe Schools Improvement Act, H.R. 2262 or S. 3739
 - Support the Student Nondiscrimination Act of 2010, H.R. 4530 or S. 3390
 - Pass the Employment Nondiscrimination Act, H.R. 3017 or S. 1584Find contact information at <http://www.contactingthecongress.org/> or call the Congressional Switchboard (202) 224-3121
- Make a video for "It Gets Better Project" on You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/itgetsbetterproject>
- Help your local school district implement Wisconsin's new school anti-bullying law, discussed at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen11/news/press/20100514%20Bully.htm>



What You Can Do (p2)

- Make sure the teachers and administrators you know know about and have read the National Education Association's "Strengthening the Learning Environment: A School Employee's Guide to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues, 2nd edition," available for free at http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/mf_glbttguide.pdf
- Browse a large collection of how-to guides and resources for schools, parents, and teens available through the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) at <http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/antibullying/index.html>
- Send a free documentary and teaching kit, "Bullied: A Student, a School, and a Case that Made History," to your local school, available from the Southern Poverty Law Center, <http://www.tolerance.org/bullied>
- Get loads of materials and advice from the Safe Schools Coalition, at http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/RG-teachers_middleschool.html
- Support with your dollars and/or volunteer time at any organization addressing LGBT rights or providing services to LGBT adults or youth.

If you are an LGBT adult concerned about intimate partner violence...

- If you are in an abusive relationship, a national LGBTQ support group is available to you by phone, offered by Network La Red. For more information, call their hotline at 614-742-4911 or go to <http://www.thenetworklared.org/>
- Learn about healthy relationships and what you can do to help a friend who is in an unhealthy one. Check out <http://showmelovedc.org/>
- Make a healthy relationship postcard at <http://showmelovedc.org/lang/en-us/the-postcard-project/>
- Download and post a hot Show Me Love poster.
 - English version: http://showmelovedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/SML_mini-posters_HR_eng.pdf
 - Spanish version: http://showmelovedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/SML_mini-posters_HR_span.pdf

If you want to learn more about LGBT health, trauma, and violence disparities...

- Download and read "How to Close the LGBT Health Disparities Gap" at http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/12/pdf/lgbt_health_disparities.pdf and "How to Close the LGBT Health Disparities Gap: Disparities by Race and Ethnicity" at http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/12/pdf/lgbt_health_disparities_race.pdf

If you need to know more about how to deliver LGBT-competent care or services...

Contact FORGE at 414-559-2123, via askforge@forge-forward.org, or consult our website at www.forge-forward.org



13 Homolicious Halloween Movies with Hot Guys to Die For

By Mikey Rox



Before he was wannabe Upper East Side lothario Nate Archibald on “Gossip Girl,” Chace Crawford played Tyler Simms, a Son of Ipswich, one of five bloodlines whose firstborn male of each generation inherits “the Power,” in the “The Covenant.” What that power entails exactly is unknown, except that it gives Tyler (who is only a supporting character in the film) the ability to do neato tricks like jump from dark-and-misty elevations and land unscathed. Yawn. But what “The Covenant” lacks in supernatural spectacle it more than makes up for in smokin’ hot half-nakedness. Take the poolside scene for instance, when Tyler’s also-gifted brethren stroll in shirtless from the locker room wearing only trunk-cut suits and owning the hell out of effortless swagger. Out of the water, kiddies – it’s time for adult swim.

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER



It’s a crime against the gratuitous horror genre that Ryan Phillippe’s Barry didn’t escape the Fisherman’s hook in “I Know What You Did Last Summer” – or that the Fisherman couldn’t have ripped Barry’s pants off before gutting him like a trout – but at least there’s the gym scene. After an intense eight-second workout (because people born perfect require less exercise than the rest of us), Barry proceeds to the locker room where he disrobes and showers like he loves himself, only to be interrupted by a strange shadow that, wouldn’t ya know it, the dog-tag-clad Barry decides to follow. Thank you, stupid movie rules. For the next minute and a half, viewers are treated to the young Adonis weaving in and out of lockers in a tight terrycloth skirt that accentuates all the right areas. And if that’s not enough to satisfy your Phillippe fantasies, just wait

until he gets pissy over his missing letterman jacket. Hell hath no fury like a post-high-school hottie scorned.

THE AMITYVILLE HORROR (2005)

As remakes go, this 2005 update of the 1979 clas-



sic doesn’t stand out as a winner based on cinematic principles, but it does boast one quality the original didn’t: Ryan Reynolds, dripping wet, upper body ablazin’. Reynolds plays patriarch George Lutz (whose real-life paranormal experiences in an alleged haunted house on Long Island led to the controversial 1977 book on which both films are based), who is a loving husband and a stepfather to three beautiful girls. Until, that is, he becomes possessed by an evil entity and chases the family around the house with a shotgun. Whatev, right? They probably deserved it. What matters most is that before George goes berserk, he takes a dip in the lake and exits soaked in liquid splendor, pecs and abs glistening in the moonlight, white pajama bottoms painted to his thighs. A beautiful nightmare, indeed.



Let’s bypass the bullshit, OK? The only redeeming quality in the “Twilight” snoozefest is Jacob Black (played by Taylor Lautner), a werewolf with a penchant for running around the Washington state backwoods in athletic shorts and sneakers – and nothing else. The first installment was a complete waste of Lautner’s talent (read: eight-pack abs and bulging biceps), but “New Moon” makes amends – and the now-legal Lautner a star – by giving fans the goods and plenty of ’em. Already established series superstar Robert Pattinson must’ve been pissed about that one. Having to share the spotlight with an immensely better looking – and better bodied – co-star has to kill. Unless he lives by the old (if not completely manipulated) adage, “Once bitten, never shy.” One can hope.

AMERICAN PSYCHO

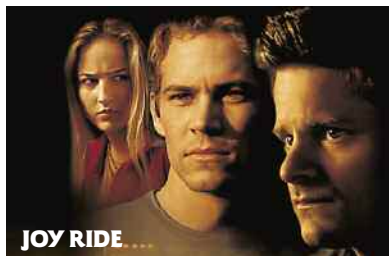


Some stories are better left in print, but the same can’t be said for author Bret Easton Ellis’ masterpiece, “American Psycho.” This satirical tale, set in late-1980s New York City, is narrated by the film’s protagonist – and serial killer – Patrick Bateman, played deftly by crazier-than-thou Christian Bale. But while the book drags on for 416 loooooong pages, the movie version runs a digestible 101 minutes, each one more triumphant than before. The film opens poignantly with Bateman taking a leak in his tighty-whiteys, performing yoga in his tight-whiteys, then showering sans tighty-whiteys. And that’s just the first 90 seconds. Fast-forward about an hour and you’ll reach what is arguably the best murderous sex scene in history. After Bateman picks up a hooker, orders an escort and returns home, he hits play on Phil Collins’ “Sussudio” and record on a video camera. Flexing and winking his way to conceit-drenched climax in the mirror, he then cannibalizes one prostitute and chases the other with a chainsaw, wearing nothing more than a pair of sneakers. Run, Bateman, run.



Before Edward Cullen, there was Michael Emerson (Jason Patric) – big brother, brooding loner and newly turned vampire. He’s sexy, for sure – because Hollywood demands it of its nightstalkers (here’s winking at you, young Keifer Sutherland) – but that’s not why the world made “The Lost Boys” the quintessential teen fang flick. For that, you can thank late heartthrob Corey Haim and that other Corey who rode his coattails. Infinitely cuter than Feldman, Haim won over fawning girls (and fey fanboys alike) with his vulnerable, adorable turn as Sam, Michael’s little bro. If his fate wasn’t sealed as the object of adolescent affection before, it was when he splish-splashed in a bubble bath while memorably belting out Clarence “Frogman” Henry’s trademark song, “Ain’t Got No Home.” Except he did – locked away in our dreams.

Why Jim (Cillian Murphy) awakens from his coma to a desolate and destroyed London is no secret – the Rage virus has decimated the city and left him seemingly alone – but how he lost his hospital gown remains a mystery. Director Danny Boyle's 2002 zombie-genre game changer opens with the injured bicycle messenger locked in a room for his own safety but also very much naked. We're talkin' full-frontal, uncut, in-your-face, flaccid penis action. Which is kinda sweet if you think about it. Because not only did the (probably male) nurse save him from having his face bitten off by the Infected, but it's highly likely that he went down on him (liberties must be taken for the sake of interpretation) before the world as he knew it ended – and then cleaned up the mess. Now that's good bedside manner.



Paul Walker has never chosen his roles wisely (except maybe once, when he played injured quarterback and washroom fornicator Lance Harbor in "Varsity Blues"), and "Joy Ride" is an almost 10-year-old testament to his permanent C-List status. The plot begins with Walker's character, Lewis Thomas, pining for childhood friend Venna – which would have been half believable if he had the hots for anybody else besides bizzaro Helen Hunt look-alike Leelee Sobieski – who he agrees to pick up on his way home from college after she announces her recent breakup with her boyfriend. Road trip! Major bumps ensue, of course, the best of which come when big-rig-driving serial killer Rusty Nail orders Lewis and his brother, Fuller (Steve Zahn), to strip down and enter a busy Nebraska diner. Obediently, the boys – front bits covered by crossed hands – do as they're told, exposing their plump, pale backsides to uptight and unsuspecting patrons. Bottoms up.

JEEPERS CREEPERS 2

Remember when you were in high school, riding home from the big game with your basketball buddies, when all of a sudden the bus gets a flat, the team removes their shirts and lines up shoulder-to-shoulder to catch some rays on the roof? What, that never happened? It would have if you attended whatever podunk educational establishment these meatheads never made it back to. It goes without saying that you would have been eaten by The Creeper too, but not without first watching him tear

the clothes off your friends and devour their body parts. Lacking the scare factor of the original – and the rose-tattooed torso of Justin Long, although he does make a cameo – this 2003 sequel gives back in homoerotic tension what it's missing in terror. Like, for instance, that the team is called the Bannon Bantams and they chant about "fighting cocks." Or that they pee together in an open cornfield while accusing each other of being queer. Or that they talk about sniffing jockstraps. And gay bars. And swinging dicks. Yep, it's all in there.

FRIDAY THE 13TH (2009)



Sure, the original had Kevin Bacon in a Speedo – and apparently with a boner (just Google those keywords on YouTube to find the debatable video) – but if you've seen Ren McCormack's member once, you've seen it at least two other times ("Wild Things," "Hollow Man"), and, frankly, that's three times too many. Still, there's plenty of skin in the 2009 reboot of the fright-filled franchise, which kicks off with über-cutie Richie (Ben Feldman) givin' it to his girlfriend good – and from behind! – in a tent near Crystal Lake before they each succumb to their bloody fates. Not to be outdone, jacked-up playboy Trent (Travis Van Winkle) pleads his case for a spot in the horror-movie-sex-scene hall of fame by letting his concubine play cowgirl, camcorder in hand, while he breathlessly delivers charming lines like, "Your tits are stupendous," and 15 seconds later, "Your tits are fucking, just, so juicy, dude." But what do you expect? No one's ever watched these movies for the dialogue.

A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET (2010)



Wes Craven's original "Nightmare" boasted a couple of hot guys, namely Tim Burton muse Johnny Depp, who's wearing a half-shirt (is there anything sexier than a dude sporting a bare midriff?) and unbuttoned stonewashed jeans when he gets pulled through his bed then splattered all over the ceiling.

Enough to whet an appetite, for sure – but that's about all the man-skin you'll get in the 1984 classic. My how times have changed. Because in the 2010 reboot, Craven employs some of young Hollywood's freshest faces – and he makes 'em work hard for their money. Thomas Dekker and Kellan Lutz provide a nice balance of beauty and brawn – though not much else – while "Veronica Mars" alum Kyle Gallner plays his part sleepy, scared and in skintight swimwear as he tries to escape Freddy's clawed glove. He lives, but not before breaking a serious sweat. Poor kid. If only he had somewhere to run...

THE FORSAKEN

Before Simon Rex played day-driver Penn in this Gen-Y take-off of "The Lost Boys," he spent his time on some seedy pornographer's couch – with his pants down. Yep, the former MTV VJ fancies himself solo sessions for cash, and that makes this road-trip-of-a-vampire-bromance film all the more watchable. Throw in hotties-of-the-day Brendan Fehr and Kerr Smith (who played gay on "Dawson's Creek") and you've got yourself a bloodsucking even-better time. But while Brendan and Kerr's quiet lust for one another is endearing – because, cut the crap, there's only one reason you pick up a hitchhiker – it's DSled vamp daddy Johnathon Schaech who puts the homoeroticism into hyperdrive; he can't get Kerr out of his mind, spending the majority of the film stalking him like a hanky-wearing patron of The Eagle. The best part? He bites. And Kerr kinda likes it.



SWIMFAN

Jesse Bradford was only lukewarm in the hit cheerleading movie "Bring It On," but at least he had time on his side.



Because just two years later, the perma-stubbed actor became a five-alarm fire of fitness as Ben Cronin, a star swimmer with a sordid past in this waterlogged 2002 thriller. As if Ben's troubles weren't bad enough – over-coming drug addiction and kleptomania – along comes out-of-her-effing-mind Madison, a new student with her sights set on the rehabbed athlete. But what begins as a benign relationship – Ben innocently helps Madison with a jammed locker – soon takes a tantalizing turn when Madison helps Ben with his jammed zipper. It's all downhill from there. When Ben refuses Madison's future advances, the harlot gets all sorts of Glenn Close on his ass, killing his friend and trying to drown his girlfriend. Yeesh! High school ain't what it used to be. Still, at least Ben has enough sense to save the day while showing off his best, um, assets. Good form, old chap.

Mikey Rox is an award-winning writer/journalist and the founder of Paper Rox Scissors, a copywriter and creative consulting company in New York City. He can be reached at mikey@paperroxscissors.com.

Thursday, October 28

XS (Green Bay) Free & confidential HIV testing from 7-9pm

Friday, October 29

Ballgame (Milwaukee) Halloween Costume Party judging for prizes 10pm.

Montage (Milwaukee) "Cadavaret" - Halloween themed Tras-Formations Show.

Saturday, October 30

ICON (Kenosha) Halloween Bash Over \$1000 in cash and prizes. \$500 Prize package for best costume. \$ 5 cover

Marian Center (3211 S. Lake Dr. St. Francis, WI) Halloween Womyn's Dance Tickets \$12 - Cash Bar - Free Parking - DJ/Music 8-12 - street clothes or costumes welcome. Events/Network Table - bring your business cards, fliers etc. FMI: YourALegend@yahoo.com

Annual Costume Bar Crawl (Triangle 8pm, Walker's Pint 9:30, Fluid 11, LaCage 12:30) Over \$1000 in cash & prizes with finals at LaCage after 12:30

SASS (Green Bay) Annual Halloween Bash & Show 6 pm

Shelter (Green Bay) Halloween Costume Party. WIN CASH & Prizes!

Tempt (Milwaukee) Monster Mash Bash \$300 sexiest costume, \$300 scariest costume Both receive \$200 complimentary bottle service anytime in November.

Triangle (Milwaukee) DJ Party with guest DJ

Sunday, October 31

Fluid (Milwaukee) Halloween Bingo 4 pm Prizes for best costume.

Harbor Room (Milwaukee) Halloween Costume Contest. Enjoy a FREE SHOT for ALL IN COSTUME. Judging at 11:30 p.m. Prizes and Miller Specials!

KRUZ (Milwaukee) Masquerade Ball 5-10pm

LaCage (Milwaukee) Ghouls' Ball 10 pm Costume contest 12:30pm 1st \$150 2nd \$100

Shelter (Green Bay) Halloween/Packer Party! Open 11am. Costume Contest after the game. WIN Cash & Prizes. Free Food at Halftime.

Wednesday, November 3

Harmony Cafe (Green Bay) Positive Voice Green Bay Transgender Group now meets the first Wededay monthly at Harmony Cafe in Green Bay 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Friday, November 5

Club 5 (Madison) Northern Plains Leather Weekend - 9pm

Saturday November 6

Ballgame (Milwaukee) Late Night Special Happy Hour Midnight to 2:30 AM to celebrate the extra hour due to fall Daylight Savings Time.

Madison Gay Video Club "Deleted Scenes" (Water Bearer Films, dir, Todd Verow, 2010) "Passion" (Lucas Ent. 2010) 8 PM, www.mgvc.org , 608-244-8690 (evenings)

Outwards Books (Milwaukee) 2 pm: Acclaimed mystery writer Therese Szymanski will read and sign copies of "When it's all Relative" plus give a sneak peek of her upcoming Brett Higgins mystery, "When Shadows Turn to Night."

PJ's (Oshkosh) Miss Wisconsin Unlimited At Large 10:30 pm

Monday, November 8

Outwards Books (Milwaukee) Outwards Men's Book Club on Monday, November 8th. The group will discuss "Lake Overturn," the acclaimed debut novel by Vestal McIntyre. 7 pm

Tuesday, November 9

Outwards Books (Milwaukee) The Lesbian Reading Group @ Outwards Books will meet on Tuesday, November 9. The book for discussion is "nevermore" by Trinity Tam and Nell Stark and sequel to their bestselling debut, "everafter." 7 pm

Thursday, November 11

Milwaukee City Hall Rotunda Veterans Day program, 7 pm with speakers and music. Sponsored by Milwaukee Veterans for Peace, Chapter 102. Free and open to the public. More information: www.milwaukeevfp.org

Friday, November 12

Napalese (Green Bay) Argonauts Club Nite - ARCW Food Drive, bring a food or personal care item for 1 raffle ticket. 9 pm - Close

Stadium View Bar & Grill (Green Bay) comedian Paula Poundstone live (see story this issue)

Saturday November 13

KRUZ (Milwaukee) Castaway's M.C. ANNIVERSARY Beer/Soda Bust \$7.00 Sat Nov. 13th - 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Raffles and prizes.

Outwards Books (Milwaukee) Photographer John Gress: Reception and Book & Calendar Signing "The Score." & his equally stunning over-sized 2011 Calendar based on photographs from the book - Starts 4 pm

Saturday November 20

KRUZ (Milwaukee) M.A.U.L. Bear Night 10-close

Madison Gay Video Club "Ice Blues" (Here!, dir. Ron Oliver, 2008) "Steamworks" (Raging Stallion, dir. Tony DiMarco & Steve Cruz, 2010) 8 PM, www.mgvc.org , 608-244-8690 (eve)

Miramar Theater(Milwaukee) The Miltown Kings' Sci Fi show, "Double Feature, Miltown Show" \$7 admission, but save a buck and only pay \$6 if wearing a Sci Fi themed costume. Costumes are at the discretion of our doorman/bouncer Cabby Malone, make it a good one!

XS (Green Bay) TURNABOUT 2010

Thursday, November 25 - Thanksgiving

Ballgame (Milwaukee) Gobble down a FREE SHOT of Doctor McGillicuddy' with your first Paid Cocktail on us

Saturday November 27

Club Impulse (Beloit) RuPaul's Drag Race Contestant ONGINA ACT9 AIDS RIDE BENEFIT

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by Terri Schlichenmeyer

"I Was Born This Way" by Archbishop Carl Bean (with David Ritz) c.2010, Simon & Schuster \$24.00 / \$32.00 Canada 264 pages

You have your father's eyes.

Some say you looked more like Mom when you were little, but you favor Dad now. Same hair, same laugh, same sense of humor.

And the thing is, there isn't a lot you can do about it. You are who you are.

In the new book **"I Was Born This Way"**, Archbishop Carl Bean (with David Ritz) tells about his childhood, careers, and God's love and acceptance.

Young Carl Bean never really knew his father, and he barely knew his birth mother. Born and raised in a poor area of Baltimore, Bean was basically raised by a village of "warm and wonderful women." He says that he was a girly little boy, soft and feminine, and he was attracted to other boys at an early age. He believes that those who raised him must have known about those feelings, but nothing was ever said. Bean was loved, and that's what he knew.

The shining point of his life was his godmother's mother, the woman Bean called Nana. She cared

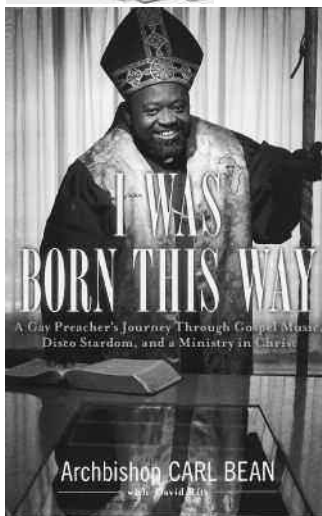
for him, took him to church, and made him happy, but when he was just three years old, Nana died and life changed drastically. He was taken in by his godparents, who *loved* him but didn't seem to *like* him. Shortly after that, Bean was sexually assaulted by an "uncle".

Though various abuses continued well into his teens, and though Bean had fully acknowledged his gayness, he maintains that he was cherished and accepted — especially by the unaware wives of his abusers.

Fortunately, he found solace in God and in song.

Bean sang in good times and bad, for audiences of none or many. Because he knew that

God is love, most of his favorites were gospel songs that Bean sang in the church choir. He was encouraged and tutored, and when he was old



enough, he moved to New York City to pursue a gospel music career, quickly making a name for himself on the gospel circuit. He followed that with a disco career and a top-selling record.

But at different points in his life, Carl Bean was homeless, which showed him what God truly wanted him to do. After his musical career ended, he started a church and opened his arms to the LGBTQ community. He began an AIDS outreach program through his ministry. He "became unconditional love."

Though it sometimes drags a little - particularly in the mid-section - "I Was Born This Way" is a wonderful biography that's curiously soothing to read.

Author Carl Bean is brutally honest in telling his story, which is both sweetly idyllic and frighteningly horrifying. Still, despite the nastiness he endured, he manages to convey a sense of calm and comfort, and a peaceful demeanor. That makes this, oddly, more like a hug than a book.

Readers looking for Heavenly succor will find it in Bean's reassuring teachings, while others will be merely treated to a unique memoir. If you're up for something good, "I Was Born This Way" is worth laying eyes on.



THE SPARKLE SHOW WITH WATERFORD'S JORGE PEREZ: AN EVENING TO REMEMBER AT GEORGE WATTS!



Milwaukee - Catch a breath during the whirlwind that leads up to the holidays. Spend a magical evening surrounded by beauty at

George Watts emporium on Thursday, November 18th, from 5:30 – 7:30.

Hailing from New York City, Jorge Perez will be here with bells on to dazzle you from Waterford Crystal. Have a piece signed by diamond point, adding to its value; enjoy his co-stars Chef Jason Stevens, from the Watts Tea Shop (who has single-handedly re-invented this charming spot into a groovy getaway with an exceptional man-friendly menu!) and additional co-star, Michael Gaffney from HGTV's Flowers Uncut!

Call Chrisanne to find out more about that piece of Waterford you've been dream-



ing off, adding sparkle, civility and a hip twist to your life! See you there! Champagne Toast at 5 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres, dessert bites, and live modeling by Zita Silver Spring, Milwaukee. Press and Public Contact, Chrisanne Robertson, George Watts, 414.290.5704.



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LGBT CINEMA AVAILABLE ON DVD by Glenn Bishop

"Plan B"

Okay, here's the set-up. There are a couple of really hot young guys in the locker room at the gym; both freshly showered. One puts on a t-shirt promoting a popular TV series. The other bemoans the fact that his TV is dead and he won't be able to watch the show's sure-to-be exciting season finale. A connection is made; an invitation extended. Fade to black.

Who knew it could all be so simple? Not Glenn, whose favorite **Golden Girls** hoodie these days merely elicits giggles at the gym.

Yet such is indeed the premise for Argentinean filmmaker Marco Berger's highly touted debut feature of two straight guys in love, **Plan B**.

Let's start with a bit of the backstory. The horribly quaffed Bruno (Manuel Vignau) is truly, madly, deeply in love with Laura (Mercedes Quinteros). Or so he claims. Meanwhile Laura, saucy wench that she is, seems to have decided to spread her affections elsewhere. Enter the ravishingly handsome Pablo (Lucas Ferraro). Sounds awfully like a classic heterosexual love triangle to Glenn.

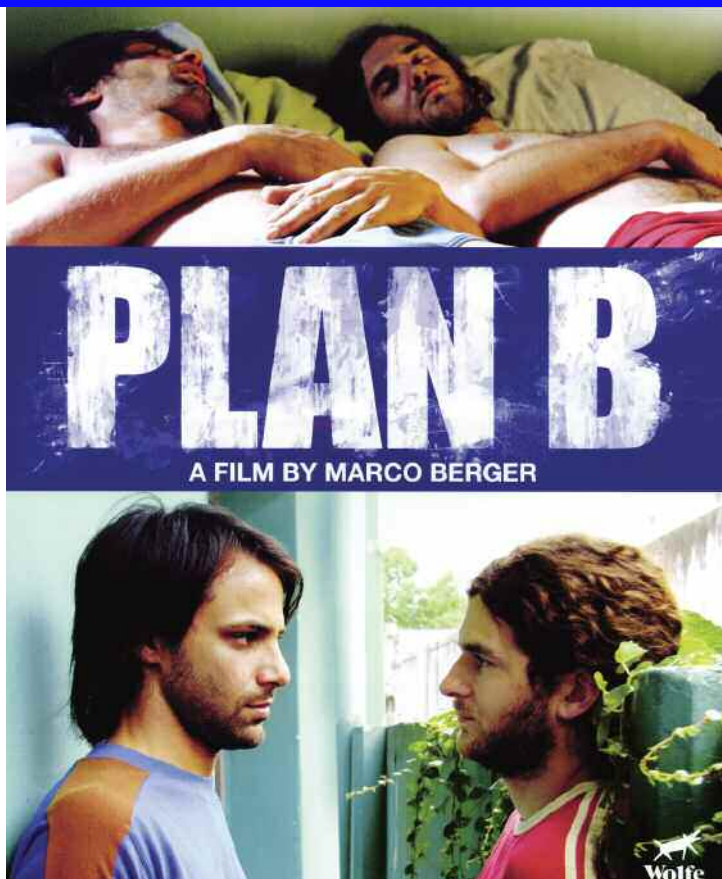
Now imagine for a moment, as Glenn did, that this were 1950s Hollywood; where Cary Grant might have played Bruno or better yet, Montgomery Cliff. How about a young Rock Hudson as Pablo. As for Laura; would Doris Day have been to cutsy?

Perhaps you'll forgive Glenn for beginning to wonder if he'd been given the screener for **Plan B** by mistake.

That Bruno and Laura still manage to find plenty of time to meet between the sheets is certainly curious. Also confusing is that Laura's apartment boasts a picture of Bruno but bearing the name of another of her exes. Strangest of all is the fact that Bruno had actually broken it off with Laura, not vice versa; seems that he was bored. Now that's she's involved with Pablo, he's done a 360: Bruno wants her back. But how to do it?

The plan, his 'plan b' is to seduce her new boyfriend. Of course, it was so obvious!

Glenn's not really sure how this outlandish ploy is supposed to work but once Bruno decides on a course of action, there's no going back. After getting together to watch their favorite TV show, Pablo and Bruno immediately begin to spend (all?)



their free time together.. Berger's rather languid screenplay finds Bruno and Pablo often sleeping together with just their skivvies to protect their virtue. Oh, and they take plenty of long walks allowing them ample time for heart-to-heart conversations. Often the two fantasize about being 12 years old again.

From here it is quick work for Bruno to begin introducing Pablo at parties as his boyfriend. Cue: two drunken straight guys kissing on a dare. Next up is an even more absurd pretense: claiming he's up for a role in a TV commercial where he has to kiss another guy, Bruno convinces Pablo to practice kissing with him. Only sober this time.

Okay, here's the point where Glenn paused the DVD and wondered if he needed to go back and start again. What was going on between Bruno and Pablo? Is Bruno merely conning the gullible, albeit ravishingly attractive, Pablo? Perhaps in Pablo Bruno is really beginning to find real friendship and maybe something rather more.

Despite boasting (falsely as it turns out) prior gay experimentation, Pablo initially appears rather uncomfortable when Bruno repeated claims that they are boyfriends, especially since Bruno can't keep his hands off of him. Even more awkward is the practice session where Pablo, worried about being labeled a fag, requires some serious persuasion before he's willing to attempt a (sober) lip-lock with Bruno. Nonetheless Pablo's growing

Buy it, rent it, or just forget about it . . .

Simply put, **Plan B** left Glenn both puzzled and confused. Did Glenn somehow manage to nod off? After bemoaning the lack of gay romances in a recent review, here Glenn found himself faced with a love story of two straight guys? What's up with that? Where are the movies where the two gay guys ride off into the sunset? Should Glenn be thinking about making his own gay love story?

Director Marco Berger is evidently intrigued by the notion of fluidity in sexual attraction yet burdens his screenplay with repeated, heavy-handed examples of 'gay panic.' Perhaps this taps into current Argentinean culture but which still left Glenn increasingly frustrated. Never, for example, did Glenn entirely understand the lengths Bruno was willing to go just to win back Laura, a young woman who happily cheats on her new boyfriend with one of her exes. Can Bruno really believe she never cheated on him? Really? Nor did Glenn find Manuel Vignau's Bruno either appealing or particularly sympathetic. As Pablo, Lucas Ferraro creates an attractive, confused young man who seems to be falling in love with Bruno faster than he realizes. No matter how Bruno's **Plan B** turns out, he deserves better than either Bruno or Laura.

On the plus side and surely with an eye towards the potential gay market, Berger does pad **Plan B** with shot after shot of the two scantily clad young men. Time and again we see the two of them just in their briefs sleeping, often curled up together. So often in fact Glenn almost cried out, "Get a room, already."

Just the facts...

"**Plan B**" is in Spanish with English subtitles, running time is 103 minutes

"**Plan B**" is available on DVD with a SRP of \$19.95

The only extra feature "**Plan B**" offers is the film's theatrical trailer.

attraction to Bruno is evident.

Decidedly less clear is Bruno's story. As his seduction of Pablo progresses, Glenn increasingly questioned whether he was really falling in love with Pablo or simply bound and determined that 'plan b' succeed, regardless of the consequences.

A love letter is sent; worse, Bruno's plan is discovered. And thus the stage is set. Who will end up with whom? Does Laura decide to take Bruno back? Have these two straight guys fallen in love?

ASK THE IRREVERENT UNCLE BARBIE Your Intellectual Whore

(An effervescently gay advice columnist) Disclaimer: Although the author of this column holds a doctorate in clinical psychology, the tongue-in-cheek advice given is for entertainment only and is not a substitute for therapy. Barbie responds to all emails...whether you deserve it or not. Send questions to askunclebarbie@aol.com

SQUEAL OR NO SQUEAL?

Hello Uncle Barbie!

First, let me say that I love your column!! I understand it is for entertainment purposes only, but I don't know who else to turn to for advise. My best friend and I recently ended a two year friendship with our friend "whatsername," her two younger children, and her boyfriend. After knowing them for a few months, we discovered her boyfriend has a addiction to meth, which she has excepted as a way of life.

He uses meth regularly with the kids in the house, deals it out of the house, and has his addict-friends hanging out there around her and the kids. The only reason the relationship has lasted this long is because of her and the kids. The past few years has been nothing but threats from him when he goes on his binges even though we have been there for them. In the last 6 months, he has admitted to stealing items from people's yards and helping people steal wiring from construction sites.

I really want to do something about this. I have thought of going to social services and talking to the police about this situation. Is this a wise thing to do? She doesn't use drugs, and all her other friends just ignore the fact of what is really going on.

And I feel I just can't sit here and do nothing. Your thoughts would be greatly appreciated!

Signed, Concerned Friend

Hello Friend,

Do what is in the best interest of the children. I think you are on the right track by thinking about going to the police and social services. I recommend talking to the police anonymously. You can do this by calling the police station from a pay phone. You do not need to give them any names if you don't want to. Just get their advice at first. Then, later, you can decide what to do. You can do the same thing with the social service agency. You are right; something needs to be done. If the mother allows the boyfriend to use drugs in front of the children, then she is enabling the destructive behavior, and if her children are in any way hurt, she could be prosecuted for "failure to protect." I cannot understand why she would stay with someone who is so dysfunctional and emotionally abusive. I can only assume that she is codependent on him for some unhealthy reason.

I'm shocked to read in your letter that "...all her other friends just ignore the fact of what is really going on." This sounds like a typical case of



Tickling the corners of your psyche.

pretending you don't see the "elephant" in the living room. (In case you are not familiar with that concept, it is a metaphor often used in drug and alcohol treatment centers. The elephant symbolized a big problem that everyone tiptoes around and ignores.) If I were you, I would go ahead and do what you need to do to legally protect the children. I will also add this...prepare yourself for the anger that the mother may vent towards you for intervening. You very well may lose that friendship. If so, let it go. She needs to face reality, and you need to find more functional friends.

Your Advice Dealer, Barbie

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Above: Brady St Doggie Parade outside Hybrid Bar Milwaukee

Below: Bear Club 4 Men host Hibernation at Napalese in Green Bay





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email:
editor@quest-online.com
www.quest-online.com

Publisher:
Mark Mariucci (ZA)

Contributors:
Paul Masterson,
Glenn Bishop,
Uncle Barbie,
Anthony Paul,
Terri Schlichenmeyer,
Mike Fitzpatrick,
Michael Johnston,

Printing/Bindery:
Journal Community Publishers

Photography:
Milwaukee: William Sharkey
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Gay Youth Milwaukee
PO Box 090441 Milwaukee, WI 53209 (414) 265-8500

Gemini Gender Group
PO Box 44211 Milwaukee, WI 53214 (414) 297-9328

Human Rights League Political Action Committee (HRL-PAC) 315 Court St #9 Milwaukee, WI 53203 (414) 455-5292
www.hrl-pac.org hrlpac@yahoo.com

Lesbian Alliance
315 W. Court St. Milwaukee, WI 53212 (414) 272-9442
lamm@milwpc.com

LGBT Center of SE WI
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info@lgbtsewisc.org

LGBT Resource Center for the 7 Rivers Region
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www.7riverslgbt.org

Log Cabin Republicans
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www.tccmilw.org

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kurt@projectq.org
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queerprgrm@aol.com

Queer Zine Archive Project
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rainbowoverwisconsin.org

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email@sagemilwaukee.org

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loreecd@aol.com

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jrmurray@uwm.edu
uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/LGBT

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LGBT Social Groups
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argonews@sbcglobal.net
www.argonautsl.org

Bear Club 4 Men
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www.bc4m.com
bearclub4men@gmail.com

Black & White Men Together
PO Box 80395, Milw 53208 (414) 461-5359
bwmtmilwaukee@aol.com
www.bwmtmilwaukee.org

Brew City Bears
PO Box 1035, Milw., WI 53201 (414) 331-3744
bc4menalan@sbcglobal.net
www.bc4men.info

Brew City Soul Brothers
Brewcitybrothers@yahoo.com

The Brunch Club
jennieragland@wi.rr.com

Castaways
PO 1697 Milwaukee 53202

Dodge Co. LGBT Social Group of Wisconsin
mellow14u@care2.com
care2.com/c2c/group/DCGLBTS-GOW

Femme Mafia Milwaukee
myspace.com/femmefamfi-amke

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aohmcc@netnet.net
www.angelsofhopemcc.org

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www.bvgays.com

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washhtsrainbow@aol.com
washingtonheightsrainbow.org

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www.bestd.org

Children Service Society of Wisconsin
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jane.ottow@csswv.org
www.csswv.org

The Counseling Center of Milwaukee
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info@tccmilw.org
www.tccmilw.org

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4 DIX 739 S 1st Street

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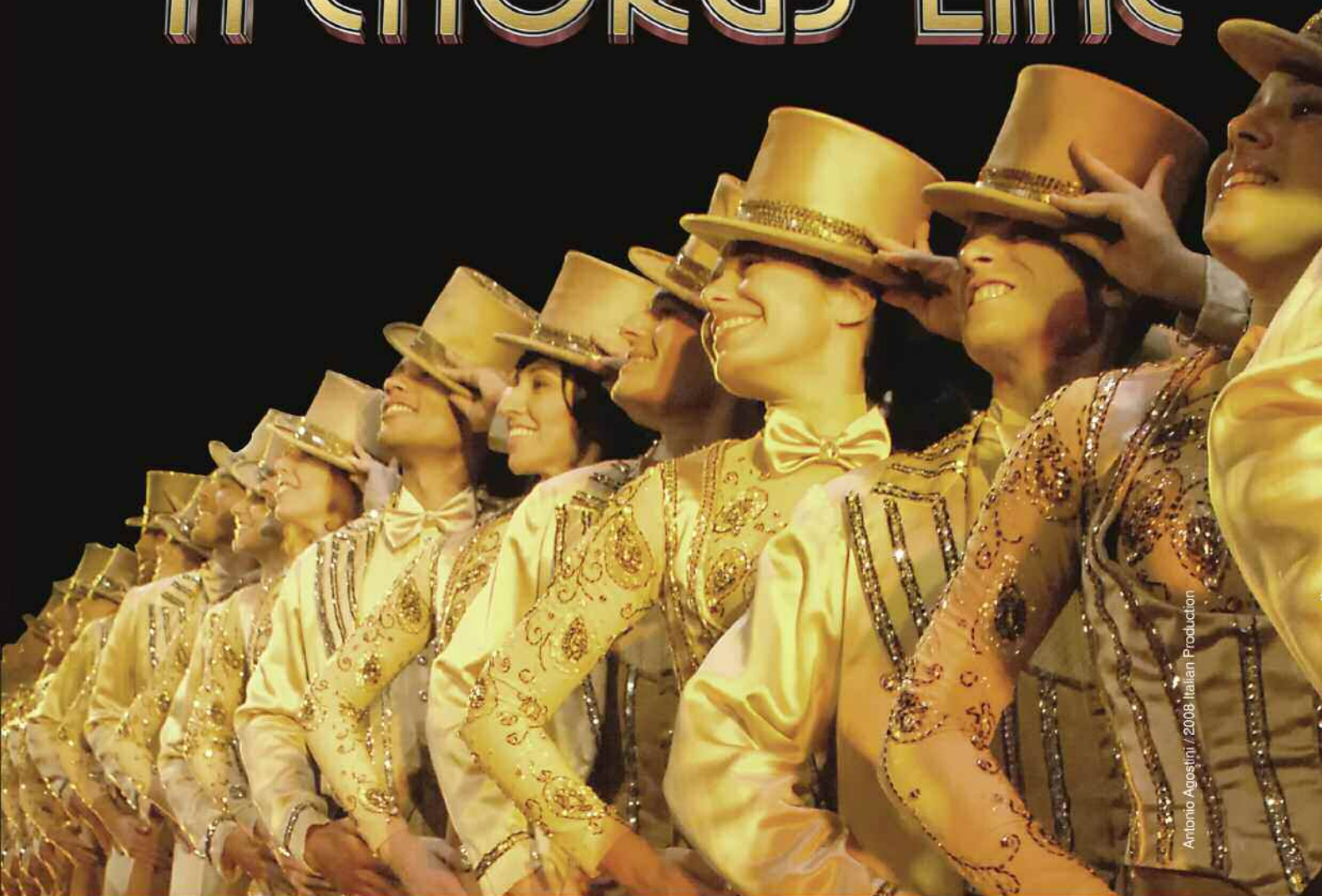
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